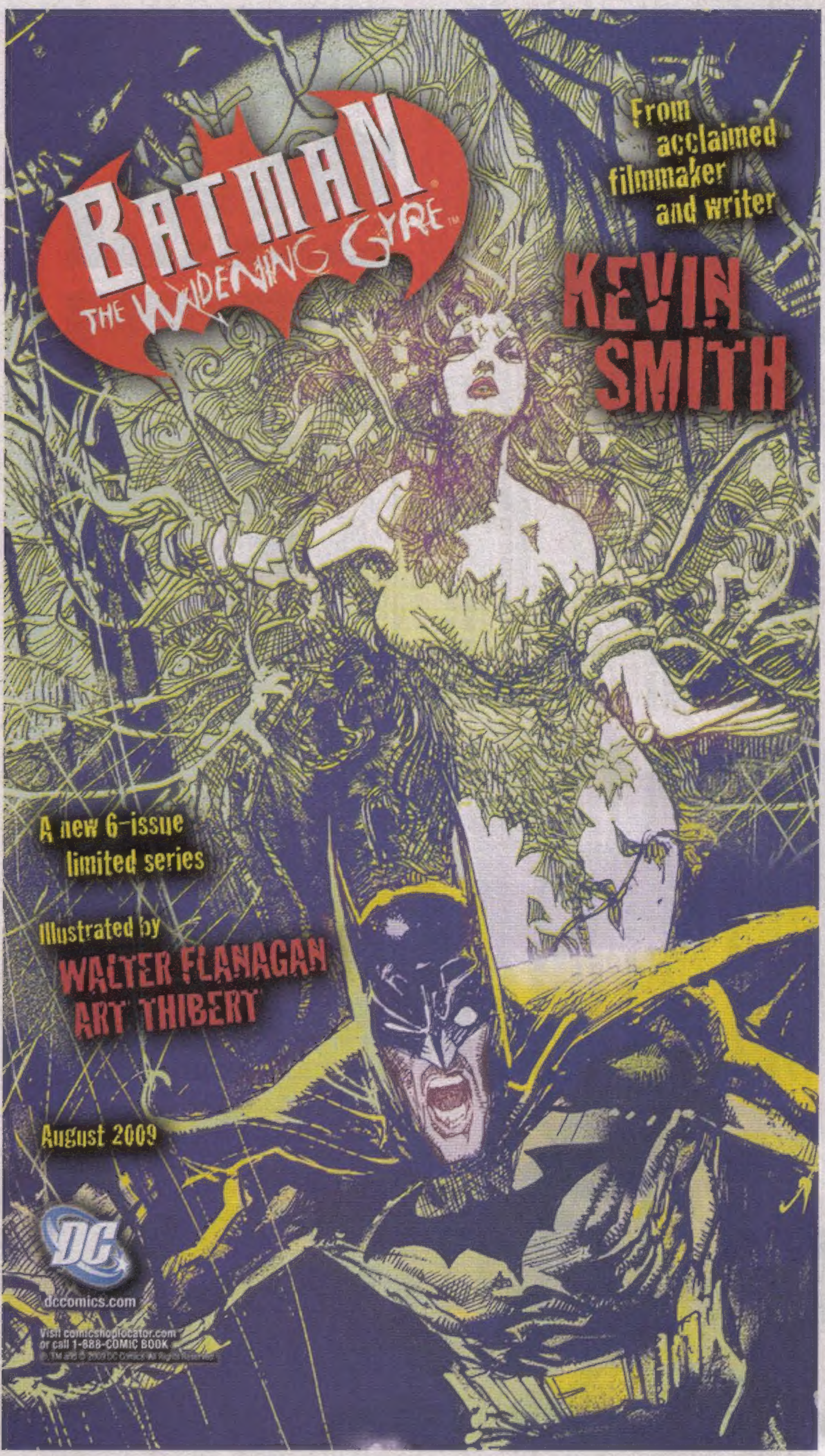
COMIC SHOP NEWS

1157

DAYS MISSING


BATMAN
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Illustrated by
WALTER FLANAGAN
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August 2009
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Bye, Gone Days

History is marked by the important days... the days on which major events occur. But what about the important days that have been hidden from history, that have been removed from all chronicles—and from human memory?

Those days are the focus of ***Days Missing,*** a new series from Archaia Press and Roddenberry Productions. *Trevor Roth,* COO of Roddenberry Productions (a company founded by Roth, *"Rod" Roddenberry,* and *Paul Keller* to continue *Gene Roddenberry's* creative legacy into the 21st century) explained the focus of the series. "Since the beginning of time, there has been a mysterious being known only as The Steward, whose interference and interaction with humanity has shaped our history. ***Days Missing*** reveals the days and stories of The Steward, which have been folded away, erased from human memory, and held within the annals of The Steward's library since the dawn of man. We have no details documented from those days and no remembrance or knowledge that they even occurred. Hidden from us, these days represent a lost history that explains who we are, who we have been and who we will become. These are the days in which the Steward has helped humanity avoid horrible mistakes and achieve exceptional accomplishments... and in ***Days Missing,*** they will be revealed."

Writer *Phil Hester* describes the Steward as "basically The Watcher who does more than watch. He's a functionally immortal being with vast depths of knowledge and foresight who safeguards the human race. When he sees that we need guidance or rescue he drops in, instructs us on saving our behinds, then makes the day disappear from our history so we can progress in a natural fashion. Speaking in Rodenberry terms, he's an advanced being who can violate the prime directive, but by folding time and wiping the day from history we never know he does it- hence preserving the prime directive.

"The great thing about the character is that we can drop him into any moment in history. In my first issue we see him in the Cretaceous Period, ancient Babylon, and modern Africa. In each instance he interacts with the locals- some assist, some hinder. The fun thing is that we see the cast revolve around him every issue. Sort of like Dr. Who swapping out companions, but The Steward does it every episode."

So why has he been charge with this duty... and by whom? "All a vast mystery to be solved in later minis," Hester said. "I'm sure Trevor has it all doped out, but it's above my pay grade. Funny thing is, The Steward himself is asking all these questions. As far as he knows he's been alive and alone since the dawn of time..."

Once the series was pitched to artist *Frazer Irving* (who illustrates the first and last issues of the series as well as the providing cover art for all issues), he knew he wanted to be involved. "The initial grab was the chance to with *Phil,* editor *Rob Levin,* and the others. It's always nice to be in good company. The artistic challenge has turned out to be one where I am drawing SF stories when I'd previously been doing super heroes or horror-fantasy type stuff; the tone is very different, so I'm getting to grips with this strange new ***Twilight Zone***-y vibe."

Roth points out that ***Days Missing*** is neither a time travel nor an alternate reality series. "The approach we have taken is very different. It contemplates humanity from a novel perspective, utilizing a fascinating character while embedding our understanding in a history with which we are already familiar. The Steward is *not* a time traveler. He lives within the same minute as we do. While The Steward has the ability to fold a day, he is not able to travel backward or forward in time. He cannot fix past mistakes. He has regrets. And he has to deal with the consequences of his actions as we all do.

"In addition, he cannot see the future. Because he has been around so long, he has a tremendous amount of foresight but no true knowledge of what is to come. He therefore can only guess as to what is best and how things will turn out. He does what he thinks will be best for us but he is guessing as much as you would be. The key to The Steward is the human constraints within which he must act and achieve.

"Furthermore, while we are presenting an *unknown* history, it's not an alternate universe. In many cases, stories with alternate timelines also deal with alternate universes and/or alternate possibilities that result in time travel. The universe we are creating is the universe in which we all live. We are just revealing parts of it that we don't know about. While we might know what happened on January 12, 200,1 and we might know what happened on January 13, 2001, we are embedding the 24 hours that was missing in between those days - a new piece of the puzzle. We are grounded in history, and have taken great strides to be historically accurate."

How did the concept for the series come about? "The premise for ***Days Missing*** was developed a little over a year ago in an effort to investigate who we were and how we became who we are," Roth said. "It began with the possibility that there are lost pockets of time that could explain historical mysteries or enlighten us on periods that seem to occur in the blink of an eye. We first came up with the idea of a 'lost decade' hidden or forgotten in some way. However we modified the concept to allow it to work better in the comic book medium, and hence ***Days Missing*** was born.

"Once the original concept was developed, it was measured against internal criteria to make sure that this series held up to the standards of Roddenberry. It passed with flying colors.

"In order to bring ***Days Missing*** to life in a comic book, we then collaborated with a dream team of legendary comic book artists and writers. Each of the issues has a dedicated creative team, whether it be *Phil Hester & Frazer Irving, Ian Edginton & Lee Moder,* or *David Hine & Chris Burnham.* This way, each creative could take ownership of their '*day* missing,' putting their individual spin on it. "

Was ***Days Missing*** always envisioned as a comic ? "As with every new concept Roddenberry develops, ***Days Missing*** was first and foremost created as an *idea.* It's the way we invent, and it often allows for an idea to work in a variety of media. That way we are not limiting creativity by getting ahead of ourselves with any particular delivery method in mind.

"In this particular case, we found our media vehicle in comic books. It worked well with the concept and enabled us to stretch our creative boundaries. Furthermore, comic books are one of the last bastions of fandom, allowing one of the most direct paths between creator and audience. We love the idea of bringing stories to readers in this form... That said, we certainly want to share this concept with as large of an audience as possible and are open to ultimately telling it via other media as well."

Once the concept was developed the next step was to find a publisher—and that's where Archaia enters the picture. "The relationship between Archaia and Roddenberry Productions is actually fairly fortuitous," Roth said. "We met *Stephen Christy,* Director of Development at Archaia, and learned he was a big fan of Roddenberry and ***Star Trek***. He really understood what the name meant and the creative criteria for something that would come out of us.

"We liked the idea of working together right off, because the brands of Archaia and Roddenberry matched one another. Roddenberry is known for high-quality science fiction entertainment, and Archaia has done a great job of creating comic books that include strong content and fantastic production value."

"***Days Missing*** fits in perfectly into what Archaia is all about," *Stephen Christy* added. "Cool, challenging, and high-concept ideas developed by some of the best creators in the business."

And speaking of creators, why did Archaia choose to go with multiple creative teams on the series? "We wanted to do something a little different, and try to

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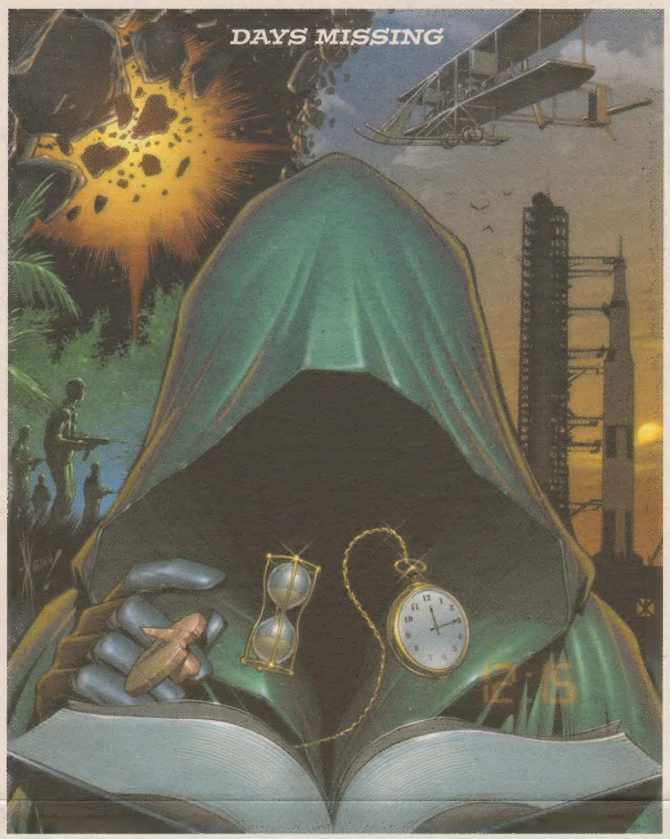

break new ground with how we approached the production of the book," Christy said. "Since we went in knowing that we wanted each issue to be self-contained, we took that idea one step further and decided to have each issue have a self-contained creative team. When talking to fans I've been comparing it to the way a TV show writing room works, with 'showrunners' (in this case *Phil Hester* and *Frazer Irving*) doing the season premiere and season finale, and other writers handling the episodes in-between, much in the same way that ***Star Trek*** was built by *Gene Roddenberry* and the writing staff working under him.

"Our hope is that you can literally pick up this book without knowing anything about the series, and be able to dive in and enjoy a complete, done-in-one 22-page tale. With the seemingly endless crossovers happening in mainstream comics right now, we wanted to go against the grain and create something that is new reader friendly every single issue."

Are there plans to continue ***Days Missing*** beyond its initial five-issue run? "If we can keep the momentum going and our readers respond to it, I'd very much like to follow up the first series with a sequel," Christy said. "I will say that this is an open-ended concept that's designed to run quite a while if readers want it to."

Days Missing #1, a bargain-priced 99¢ comic that kicks off the series, should be available in comic shops at about the same time as this issue of *CSN*.

The following comics and comics-related books are tentatively slated for release on the dates given, based on the latest information provided by the publishers at press-time; if no date is listed, the books are tentatively scheduled for release sometime in the month of September.

At the request of many retailers, fans, and publishers, we offer Diamond Comic Distributors' code numbers after the publisher's name for each item to make it easy for stores to special-order items for you, should they not be a part of your comic shop's standard order.

•**100 PERCENT PERFECT GIRL GN VOL 9 (OF 10)** NetComics AUG091013 $9.99
•**2000 AD PACK SEP 2009** Rebellion JUL091025 $22.50
•**28 DAYS LATER #3** Boom JUL090754 $3.99
•**3 STORY: SECRET HISTORY OF THE GIANT MAN** 9/23 Dark Horse MAY090067 $19.95
Matt Kindt presents the Marquez-esque tale of a giant man trying to find his place in the world
•**ABSOLUTE PROMETHEA HC VOL 1** 9/30 WildStorm/DC FEB090241 $99.00
Collects Promethea #s 1-12 in a deluxe slipcased edition, along with bonus features
•**ABSOLUTION #2 (OF 6)** Avatar JUL090707 $3.99
•**ACTION COMICS #881** 9/16 DC JUL090180 $3.99
•**ADVENTURE COMICS #2** 9/9 DC JUL090181 $3.99
Featuring Superboy by Geoff Johns & Francis Manapul, with a Legion backup tale by Geoff Johns, Michael Shoemaker, & Clayton Henry
•**ADVENTURES OF YOUNG DET GN VOL 3 (OF 5)** NetComics AUG091014 $9.99
•**AGENTS OF ATLAS #10** 9/2 Marvel JUL090513 $2.99
•**AGENTS OF ATLAS #11** 9/16 Marvel JUL090514 $2.99
•**AIR #13** 9/16 Vertigo/DC JUL090283 $2.99
•**ALCOHOLIC SC** 9/16 Vertigo/DC JUN090256 $14.99
•**ALEC HC: YEARS HAVE PANTS LIFE SIZE OMNIBUS** Top Shelf JUL091082 $49.95
•**ALEC SC: YEARS HAVE PANTS LIFE SIZE OMNIBUS** Top Shelf JUL091081 $35.00
For the first-time ever, the groundbreaking autobiographical comics of master cartoonist Eddie Campbell are collected in a single volume
•**ALEX HORLEY SKETCHBOOK SC** Vanguard JUL091093 $24.95
•**ALIEN LEGION OMNIBUS TP VOL 1** 9/9 Dark Horse MAY090063 $24.95
•~~**ALIENS #3 (OF 4)** 9/30 Dark Horse JUL090066 $3.50~~
•**ALL & SUNDRY: UNCOLLECTED WORK HC 2004-2009** Fantagraphics JUL090865 $29.99
by Paul Hornschemeier
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #604** 9/2 Marvel JUL090487 $2.99
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #605** 9/9 Marvel JUL090488 $3.99
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #606** 9/16 Marvel JUL090489 $2.99
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #607** 9/23 Marvel JUL090490 $2.99
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN PRESENTS ANTI VENOM #1 (OF 3)** 9/2 Marvel JUL090491 $3.99
Anti-Venom vs Punisher
•**AMELIA RULES TP: VERY NINJA CHRISTMAS** Simon & Schuster JUL091030 $7.99
•**AMERICAN MCGEES GRIMM #5** IDW JUL090945 $3.99
•**ANGEL #25** IDW JUL090914 $3.99
•**ANGEL BLUE STATUE** Bowen JUN091489 $200.00
•**ANGEL RED STATUE** Bowen JUN091490 $225.00
•**ANGEL: AFTER THE FALL HC VOL 5—AFTERMATH** IDW JUL090920 $24.99
•**ANGEL: BLOOD AND TRENCHES TP VOL 1** IDW JUL090919 $17.99
•**ANGEL: ONLY HUMAN #2 (OF 4)** IDW JUL090917 $3.99
•**ANITA BLAKE LAUGHING CORPSE: NECROMANCER #5 (OF 5)** 9/16 Marvel JUN090457 $3.99
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•**AP HOW TO DRAW MANGA NEXT GENERATION POCKET MANGA TP VOL 2** 9/30 Antarctic JUN090680 $12.95
•**ARCHIE #601** 9/16 Archie JUL090676 $2.50
Michael Uslan & Stan Goldberg present the wedding of two of comics' best-known characters in 'Archie Marries Veronica,' Part 2
•**ARCHIE & FRIENDS #135** 9/9 Archie JUL090677 $2.50
•**ARCHIE & FRIENDS ALL STARS TP VOL 1 VERONICA PASSPORT** 9/23 Archie JUL090678 $9.95
•**ARCHIE DIGEST #257** 9/9 Archie JUL090679 $2.69
•**ARCHIE DOUBLE DIGEST #202** 9/23 Archie JUL090680 $3.99
•**ARCHIE'S PALS N GALS DOUBLE DIGEST #135** 9/30 Archie JUL090687 $3.99
•**ARKHAM ASYLUM BOXED SET** 9/23 DC Direct FEB090301 $60.00
•**ARKHAM ASYLUM POKER SET** 9/23 DC Direct FEB090299 $199.00
•**ARMY OF DARKNESS #25** Dynamite JUL090813 $3.50
•**ARMY OF DARKNESS: ASH SAVES OBAMA #2 (OF 4)** Dynamite JUL090812 $3.50
•**ART OF OSAMU TEZUKA, GOD OF MANGA HC** Abrams JUL091247 $40.00
•**ART OF TOP COW SC** 9/2 Image JUL090452 $34.99
•**ARTESIA BESIEGED #4 (OF 6)** Archaia JUL090667 $3.95
•**ASTONISHING X-MEN BY WHEDON & CASSADAY OMNIBUS HC** 9/2 Marvel APR090555 $75.00
Collecting Astonishing X-Men #1-24 and Giant-Size #1
•**ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #20** 9/30 Image JUL090388 $2.99
•**ASTRO BOY MOVIE ADAPTATION #3** 9/2 IDW JUL090935 $3.99
•**ASTRO BOY MOVIE ADAPTATION #4** 9/9 IDW JUL090936 $3.99
•**ASTRO BOY MOVIE ADAPTATION TP** IDW JUL090938 $17.99

by Cliff Biggers

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

THAT GAS WILL KEEP WOLVERINE OUT COLD LONG ENOUGH--
--FOR ME TO DO WHAT I MUST!
I'LL USE HIS ADAMANTIUM CLAWS ON ONE HAND--
--TO CUT THROUGH THE CLAWS ON HIS OTHER!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-13
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- **ASTRO BOY MOVIE PREQUEL: UNDERGROUND TP** IDW JUL090937 $17.99
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Presenting a turning point for Astra Furst, the third-generation Super Hero of Astro City

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Doug Murray, Paul Renaud, and Fabiano Neves bring the goddess Athena into the modern world

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Spotlighting Bernie Wrightson's Frankenstein

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- **BATMAN: CACOPHONY HC** 9/16 DC MAY090177 $19.99

Collecting the Kevin Smith-Walter Flanagan miniseries along with an intro by Smith and the script for the third issue

- **BATMAN: GOTHAM AFTER MIDNIGHT TP** 9/2 DC JUN090204 $19.99
- **BATMAN: THE BLACK GLOVE TP** 9/30 DC JUN090205 $17.99
- **BATMAN: WIDENING GYRE #2 (OF 6)** 9/30 DC JUL090165 $2.99

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As the dead attack in full force, Green Lantern is faced with an impossible decision and the scattered remains of the Justice League suffer a terrible loss. Who can stop the Black Lanterns? Why are they rising? And how can the Spectre help? Find out as the saga by Geoff Johns & Ivan Reis continues

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Will the new Batman join his predecessor in the grave? Will Red Robin's reunion with his father be bitter and bloody? Can anyone escape the horror of the Black Lanterns? Peter J. Tomasi & Adrian Syaf have the answers!

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Black Lantern Hawk has his talons set for the female Hawk and Dove! Meanwhile, Red Star faces a frightful family reunion with Black Lanterns Panthu and Wildebeest, and Donna Troy faces her worst possible nightmare in this issue by J.T. Krul & Ed Benes

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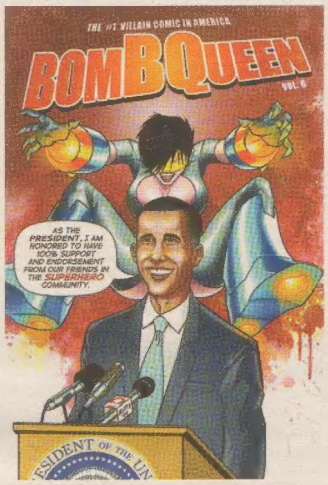
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J. Michael Straczynski pairs Batman and...Dial H For Hero

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Spotlighting Art Spiegelman

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IT'S WORKING! I'LL SOON BE ABLE TO SLICE OFF THE FRAGMENT I NEED.
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AND THEN MY TENTACLES WILL BE UNBREAKABLE!
SHEESH, OCK! YOU SOUND LIKE THE HEAVY IN A GRADE-B MOVIE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-14
dianzinza @ aol.com

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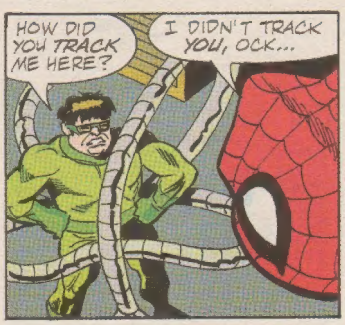

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AS SPIDER-MAN ATTEMPTS TO RESCUE WOLVERINE FROM DR. OCTOPUS...
YOU REALLY EXPECT TO PUNCH OUT MY LIGHTS WITH THAT TENTACLE?
NO!
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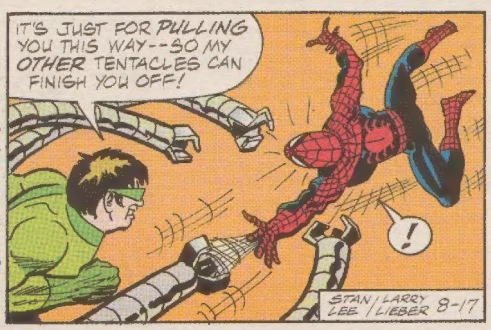

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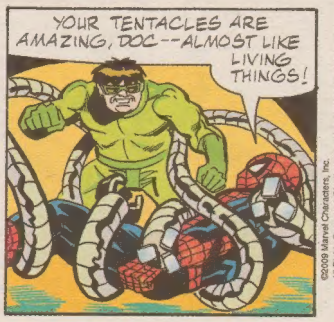
YOUR TENTACLES ARE AMAZING, DOC--ALMOST LIKE LIVING THINGS!
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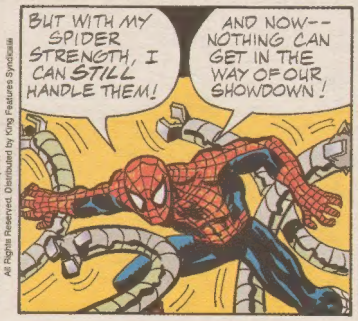
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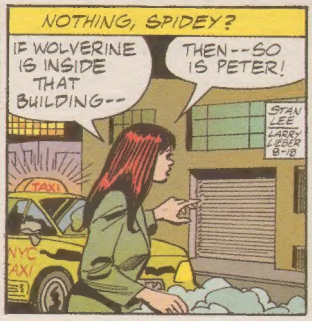

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•**TENJHO TENGE VOL 18** 9/2 CMX/DC JUN090280 $9.99

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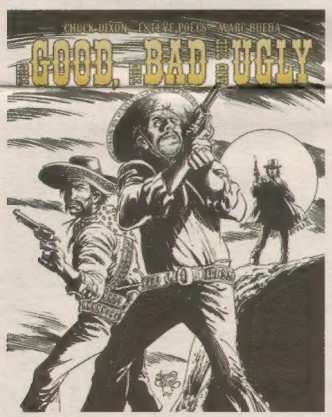
•**TERRY MOORES ECHO #16** Abstract JUL090641 $3.50

•**TEZUKA'S BLACK JACK TP VOL 7** 9/16 Vertical JUN091097 $16.95



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Tony Stark races against time to save his crippled corporation and stop the theft of his armored arsenal in this miniseries by Warren Ellis & Steve Kurth

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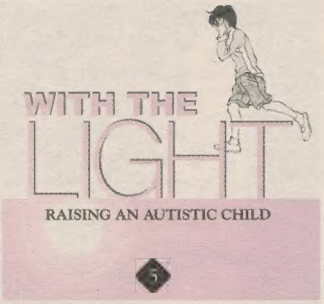

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•**ZOO SC** 9/16 Viz JUN091134 $13.99

•**ZORRO #16** Dynamite JUL090809 $3.50

PETER ATTACHED A SPIDER TRACER TO WOLVERINE...
SO HE MUST'VE TRACKED LOGAN TO THIS WAREHOUSE.
EXIT
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-19
BUT PETER GAVE ME A TRACER ATTUNED TO HIS OWN DNA.
IF IT WORKS, IT SHOULD LEAD ME STRAIGHT TO HIM.
YEP! IT WORKS!
KRAASSH
Colors: Ward Batty
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